



Bright Futures Begin with Summer Reading!

Almost every Idaho public library has a summer reading program that encourages kids of all ages to read for fun. Many libraries offer small prizes as incentives for reading over the summer months. Some libraries also offer special programs during the summer such as puppet shows, craft programs, storytimes, or programs on special topics with guest speakers.

Why is summer reading important?

Summer reading programs help children maintain their school year gains, catch up to grade level, or even get ahead. These programs provide a wholesome activity for children during their out-of-school time. Reading and related activities stimulate intellectual growth and provide creative outlets.

You can help bright futures begin in your community!

Libraries have limited budgets for summer reading and rely on dedicated staff and volunteers, as well as donations, to stretch their funding. They need your help in getting the word out to parents, educators, and community leaders about the value of summer reading.

Top 10 reasons to sign up your child for summer reading



- 10 To bring the world to your child**
- 9 To keep your child's reading skills strong**
- 8 To find great books for the whole family**
- 7 To help your child meet new friends**
- 6 To find books which match your child's interests**
- 5 To discover new authors and great web sites**
- 4 To nurture a love of reading**
- 3 To stretch your child's mind and imagination**
- 2 To give your child a head start on life and learning**
- 1 It's fun!**

Summer Reading Can Make a Difference!

Almost half of kindergarten-age children in Idaho lack reading readiness skills when they enter school.

Students who are not reading at grade level by the end of first grade have a 1 in 8 chance of ever catching up to grade level without extraordinary and costly interventions.*

Many low income children have no books or other age-appropriate reading materials in their homes. Children who have access to books read more and become better readers.

In Idaho public schools, more than 18,000 children are English language learners, who often lag behind their peers in reading tests.** Without summer reading, many of these students do not get a chance to practice their English skills over the summer.

*Juel [1988, 1994] cited in *Teaching Reading Sourcebook for Kindergarten through Eighth Grade*, by Honig, Diamond & Gutlohn

**Idaho State Board of Education, LEP Program, 2007 Legislative Report

